

QA-602
1458 Cox Neck Road
Chester vicinity, Queen Anne's County

Constructed ca. 1900
Private

Located approximately one mile south of Chester on the west side of Cox Neck Road, the house at 1458 Cox Neck is set in a small, rural African-American community. The two-story, three-bay, side-gable house has a single-room plan. Two one-story, shed-roof additions are located to the west and south, and an enclosed porch stretches across most of the east elevation. The house is in a deteriorated condition. A non-historic metal storage shed stands west of the house.

The small rural community of Coxes Neck reflects the historical development of African-American communities in Queen Anne's County. After the Civil War, African-American oystermen and farm laborers on Kent Island created communities by buying land to build their own houses and institutions. Built circa 1900, the house at 1458 Cox Neck Road illustrates a type of late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century, modest dwelling built by working-class families.

Inventory No. QA-602

1. Name of Property

historic

other

2. Location

street and number 1458 Cox Neck Road

not for publication

city, town Chester, MD 21619

X vicinity

county Queen Anne's County

3. Owner of Property

name	Goldie Lanman
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street and number 522 Arrington Road

telephone

city, town Queenstown

state MD

zip code 21658-1308

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

liber SM 602 folio 522

city, town Centreville

tax map 64

tax parcel 51

tax ID number 04-063805

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category

_____ district
X _____ building(s)
_____ structure
_____ site
_____ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Current Function

<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape
<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture
<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress
<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown
<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use
<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

1

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-602

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Summary

Located approximately one mile south of Chester on the west side of Cox Neck Road, the house at 1458 Cox Neck is set in a small, rural African-American community. The two-story, three-bay, side-gable house has a single-room plan. Two one-story, shed-roof additions are located to the west and south, and an enclosed porch stretches across most of the east elevation. The house is in a deteriorated condition. A non-historic metal storage shed stands west of the house.

Description

Set back approximately forty feet from Cox Neck Road, the house is located near the north edge of a level, 33,000-square-foot lot. A gravel driveway to the south of the house extends west from the road and opens into a sandy area at the southwest corner of the building. Poured concrete walks lead from the driveway to the south addition entrance and to the front porch. Bushes grow along the foundations of the east elevation. The grassy yard, with scattered mature trees, is surrounded by mature woods.

The two-story, side-gable, single-room house rests on a foundation that is covered with rock-faced, pressed metal sheets. The walls are clad in board-and-batten siding. The roof features asphalt shingles, cornice returns on the south elevation only, and enclosed rafters with a plain fascia. An interior brick chimney with corbelled cap that is missing some bricks pierces the roof at the south end. A one-story, shed-roof porch is centered on the façade and extends approximately three-quarters of the width of the house. The porch stands on a concrete block foundation, is enclosed with plywood on the bottom half up to the rail level and screening on the top, and is clad in roofing paper. A poured concrete and brick stoop is located on the south side,

The first-story façade (east elevation) is somewhat obscured by the porch, but appears to be three bays with two windows and a center door. The second story features two, symmetrically placed, 2-over-2, double-hung, wood sash windows with narrow, square-edged trim and block sills. The north elevation of the main block has a centered, louvered opening in the gable. The south elevation contains no openings. The east elevation was not visible from the public right-of-way.

The one-story, shed-roofed south addition stands on a foundation clad in rock-faced, pressed metal sheets. It is clad in board-and-batten siding, and has an asphalt shingle roof that has collapsed in the center. The east elevation of the addition contains a centered, 2-over-2, double-hung window with metal storm window. The south elevation features a centered, 4-panel, wood door with metal storm door; poured concrete and brick steps lead to the door. The west elevation was not visible from the road. The one-story, shed-roofed rear addition has the same foundation and cladding as the house, except that the south elevation is clad with particle board. Its west elevation and roof were not visible from the public right-of-way.

A non-historic, front-gable, metal shed stands west of the house along the edge of the woods.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-602

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates circa 1900

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Summary Statement of Significance

The small rural community of Coxes Neck reflects the historical development of African-American communities in Queen Anne's County. After the Civil War, African-American oystermen and farm laborers on Kent Island created communities by buying land to build their own houses and institutions. Built circa 1900, the house at 1458 Cox Neck Road illustrates a type of late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century, modest dwelling built by working-class families.

Historical Narrative

After the Civil War ended in 1865, Queen Anne's County underwent significant economic, social, and political change. Many of the county's African-American communities formed in the 1860s and 1870s as newly free African Americans bought land to build their own churches, schools, and homes. Between 1866 and 1877, the small community of Coxes Neck was established by Noah Robinson, Frank Watkins, George and John Richardson, John Wilson, Charles Harvey and others, who all built houses along Cox Neck Road in this area.¹ The community's position on Cox Neck between Crab Alley and Cox Creeks was convenient for oystermen, and the surrounding rural area provided employment for farm laborers.²

¹ An 1866 map does not show any houses in this location; an 1877 map shows a number of residences, and only labels buildings with the names of their owners. *J. G. Strong's Map of Queen Anne's County* (n.p.: J.G. Strong, 1866). Also *An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, MD* (Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877). The community's name appears to be almost entirely local; it does not appear on any historic or modern maps. "The community of Chester might really be called the communities of Chester; there is Dominion on Route 552, and Coxes Neck, wherein clusters of Blacks [sic] dot each small section." Bertha Pulley, "Chester," *The Black Arts Festival of Queen Anne's County, Theme: "Black Horizons in Queen Anne's County,"* program (Centreville, Md.: Queen Anne's County Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 10 June 1978), p. 14. Also Fordonia E. Watkins, conversation with author, Chester, Md., 18 July 2007.

² 1870 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Broad Creek, Page No. 24. "Other Blacks were oyster packers, insurance agents, blacksmiths, shopowners such as shoe repairing, cleaning establishments, and an owner of an ice cream parlor." Pulley, "Chester."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-602

An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties, MD. Philadelphia: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877.

J.G. Strong's Map of Queen Anne's County. N.p.: J.G. Strong, 1866.

Pulley, Bertha. "Chester." *The Black Arts Festival of Queen Anne's County, Theme: "Black Horizons in Queen Anne's County."* Program. Centreville, Md.: Queen Anne's County Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 10 June 1978.

U.S. Geological Survey. Maptech Historical Topographical Maps. Electronic Resource: <<http://historical.maptech.com>>. Annapolis, MD Quadrangle (15 Minute Series), 1904.

U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, 1870.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.76 acres

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name Kent Island

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000 (7.5 minute)

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property boundary is defined by the current parcel boundaries shown on tax map 64, grid 1, parcel 51 in Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Evelyn D. Causey, Ph.D., Senior Historian
Gerald M. Maready, Jr., Architectural Historian

organization History Matters, LLC

date November 16, 2007

street & number 1502 21st Street, NW, 2nd Floor

telephone (202) 223-8845

city or town Washington

state DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-602

Name: 1458 Cox Neck Road
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

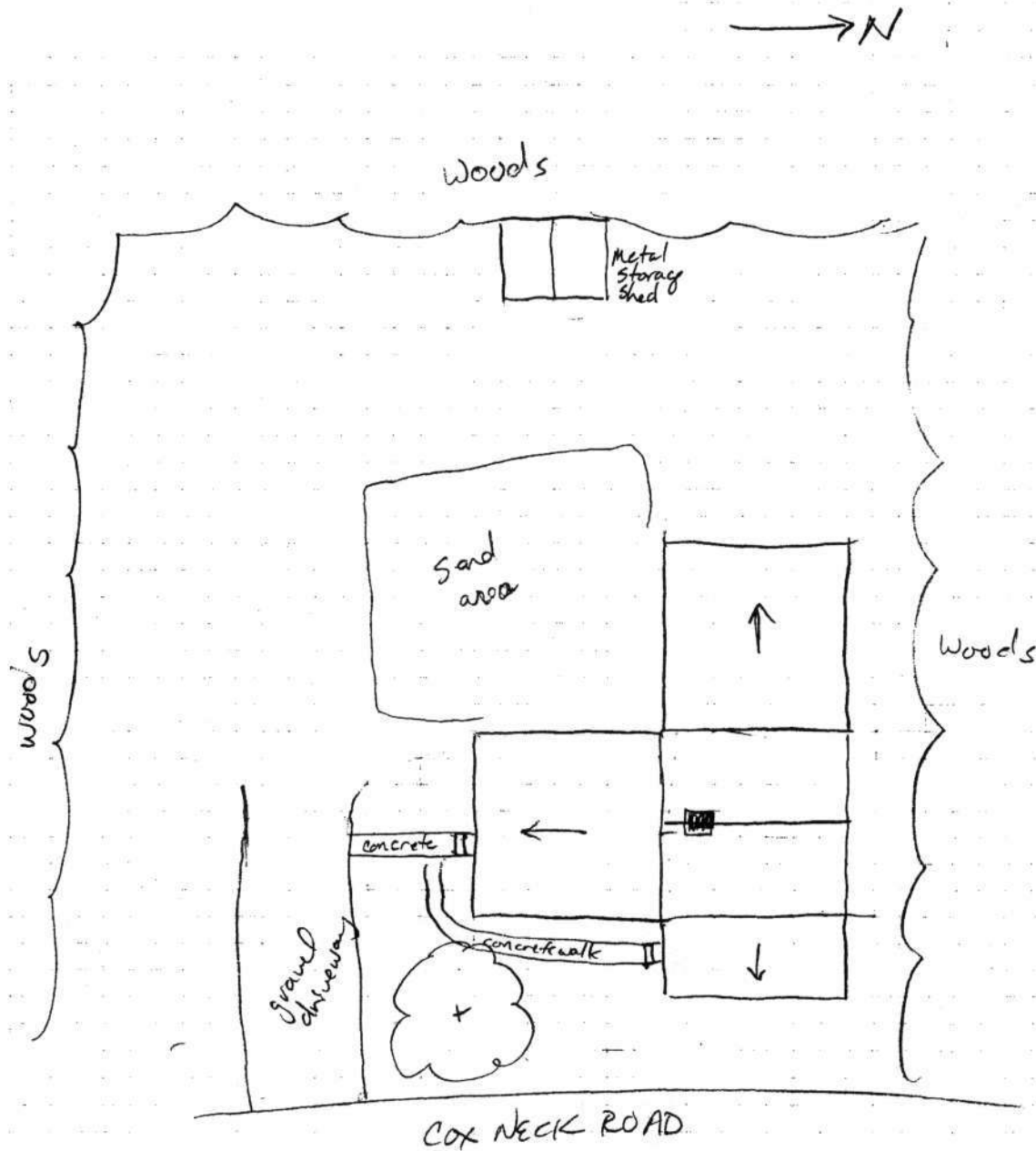
In 1877, Noah Robinson, an oysterman, owned the only house constructed on the west side of Cox Neck Road.³ Historic maps indicate that Robinson's house stood near the one currently located at 1458 Cox Neck Road. By 1904, a total of four houses were located on the west side of Cox Neck Road.⁴ The house at 1458 Cox Neck Road was probably one of the houses built between 1877 and 1904.⁵ Single-room houses of one to two stories were common in rural Queen Anne's County and in the county's African-American communities. The house's modest size and sparse architectural ornamentation reflect the economic challenges faced by farm laborers, oystermen, and other working-class residents.

³ *Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne Counties.*

⁴ United States Geological Survey, Maptech Historical Topographical Maps – electronic Resource: <<http://historical.maptech.com>>, Annapolis, MD Quadrangle (15 Minute Series), 1904.

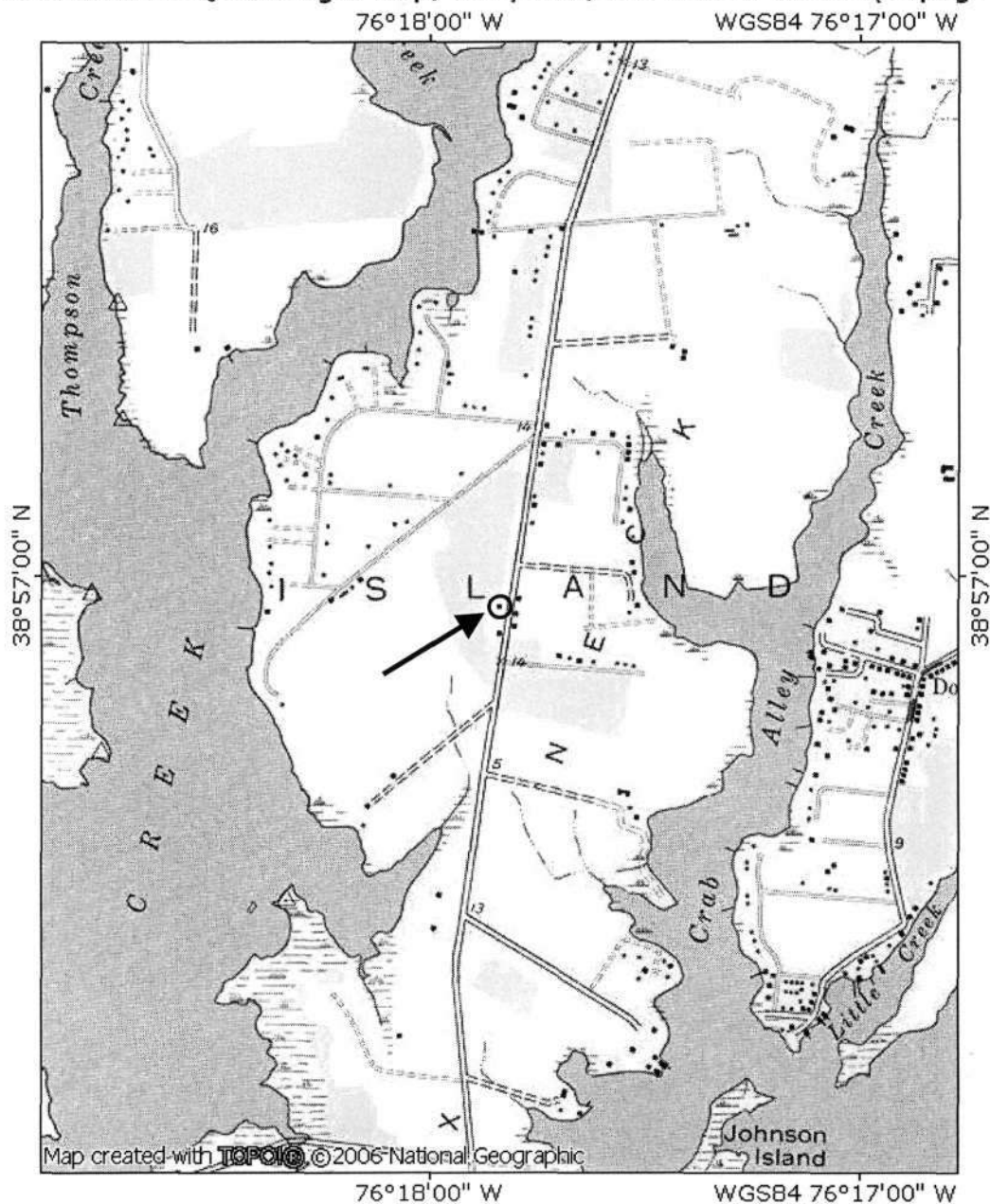
⁵ The current tax assessment assigns a 1910 construction date to 1458 Cox Neck Road.

Site Plan
QA-602
1458 Cox Neck Road
Chester vicinity
Queen Anne's County, Maryland

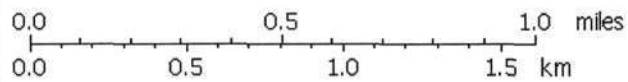


not to scale

USGS Kent Island Quadrangle Map, Maryland, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)



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Chester vicinity
Queen Anne's County



MN ★ T
 11°
 08/13/07



QA-602

1458 Cox Neck Road, Chester vicinity

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

7/2007

MD SHPO

Facade (east elevation)

1 of 1